How to read a vehicle identification number A car or truck's vehicle identification number is required by federal regulation to contain specific information in code. Break the code and you can verify key facts about the vehicle. The U.S. government standardized the 17-character format for the 1981 model year for cars and light trucks sold in the USA. VINs for commercial-use and heavier-duty vehicles use a slightly different formula. Sample vehicle identification number (VIN) 1st character: Where 2nd, 3rd 4th through 8th 9th 10th character: the vehicle was built ast six characters: characters: characters: character: Model year of the car. Serial number of the 1,4,5 USA The manufacturer Portrait of the Security code vehicle. Not all car 1980 1992 Canada<sup>1</sup> vehicle. that identifies companies start at Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica Australia 1981 1982 1983 1993 1**99**4 Identifies brand the VIN as RSTV 000001: practices vary (Mercury, Dodge, Oldsmobile), body being ĎEF among manufacturers. 1995 Brazil authorized by 1984 1996 Japan style (sedan, the 11th character: 1985 1986 South Korea 1997 wagon) and engine size and manufacturer. Tells which plant assembled the W 1998 It alerts law-United Kingdom France or Yugoslavia 1987 type (liters, enforcement vehicle. Each 1988 1989 2000 cylinders, etc.). officers if the manufacturer uses different codes to Ŵ 2001 2002 Germany VIN is not 1990 Sweden Identify its plants. authentic. Italy 1 - eserved for future use by other countries rces: Society of Automotive Engineers, Code of Federal Regulations

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By June Stacey, USA TODAY

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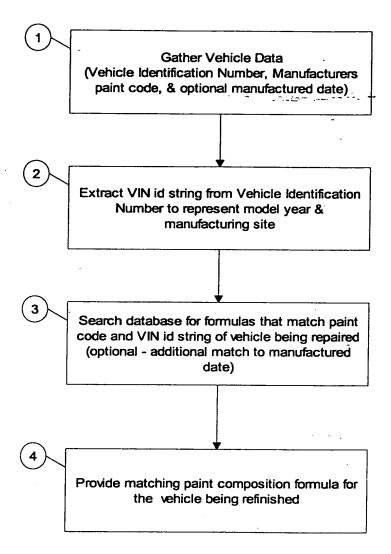
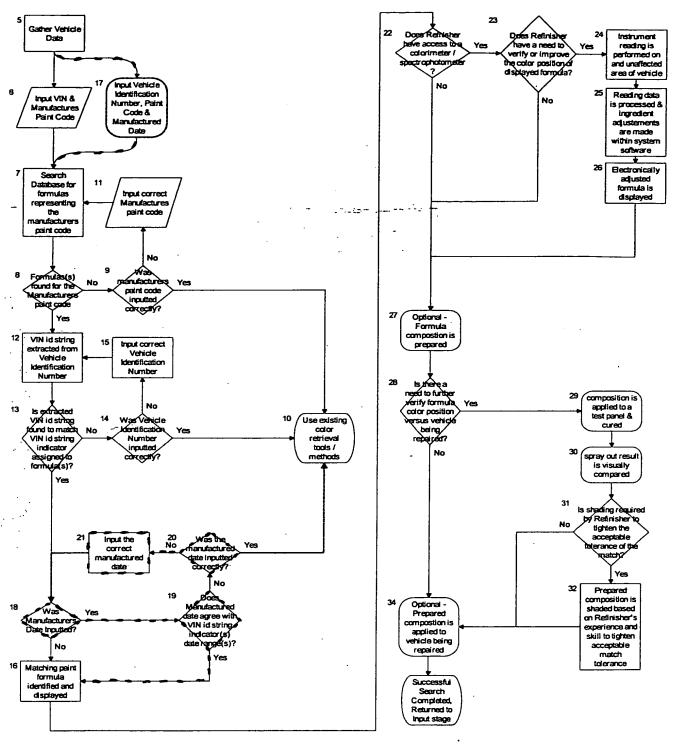


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

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